

had won from a Kingsville manager who attended the game. She immediately made an announcement over the store loudspeaker and shoppers stopped to cheer, clap and wipe tears from their eyes. It was a beautiful moment.

This victory belongs to the entire community. They all pulled together, hoped together, and prayed together and the Calallen Wildcats came back to Corpus Christi as the State Champions. These guys learned the important lesson of knowing that champions must have patience, skill, and heart. They learned that victory comes from within.

I want to include the leadership of the school and the coaches in this victory: Superintendent Dr. James Warlick, Principal Mike Sandroussi, Athletic Director Phil Danaher, and Coaches Steve Chapman, Danny Fogg, Dough Edwards, and Mark Soto.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in offering our congratulations to a team of outstanding young men and outstanding young ball players, the 2000 Texas High School Class 4–A Baseball Champions.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4516) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this bill and the short-sighted cuts it makes to the budgets of the agencies and employees under the Subcommittee's jurisdiction.

There is a lot of smoke and mirrors in this bill. Even with the funding restored by the Manager's amendment, this bill is deficient in many critical areas. The bill's total appropriation is still \$9.8 million less than the current year's appropriation.

It would still leave the Congressional Research Service, an office that every Member of Congress relies upon to serve our constituents, underfunded and ill-equipped to fulfill its mission.

I spoke in strong opposition to this bill when we considered it in the Appropriations Committee because it would have gutted the agencies funded in this bill and resulted in up to 1,700 employees being laid off.

This would mean RIFs and lay-offs of the hardworking men and women who work for the Capitol Police, the Library of Congress, GAO, GPO and the other agencies in this bill. To many of you, these are faceless individuals whose work may not be directly felt.

However, to me, not only are many of these individuals my constituents, but they are also devoted Federal employees who have foregone higher paying jobs in the private sector because they believe in public service. They have families and mortgages and do good

work. They have been subjected to possible RIFs because this Congress wants to provide a tax cut rather than maintain the current funding and cost-of-living adjustment for these agencies.

On another matter, the proposed amendment to establish a lockbox on this bill is a budgetary gimmick. It has the gloss of sounding fiscally responsible, but it actually ties the hands of this Committee and forces irresponsible cuts in order to provide a large tax cut.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and look for a better approach to funding the agencies in this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EXCELLENCE OF ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL'S NATIONAL ENERGY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TEAM

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anderson High School's NEED (National Energy Education Development) Project Team. Anderson High School is in Ohio's Second Congressional District, and its team was recognized as the Senior Level School of the Year by the NEED Project at the 2000 Youth Awards Program for Energy Achievement. The NEED Project is a nonprofit education association dedicated to developing and distributing comprehensive, hands-on energy education programs to schools nationwide. NEED encourages and rewards student leadership by sponsoring a Youth Awards Program for Energy Achievement.

Anderson High School's NEED Project Team was chosen as the Senior Level School of the Year for its outstanding work to promote energy awareness through the design and delivery of objective, multi-sided energy education programs. The team participants are Jayne Everson, Steve Grindle, Matt Radcliffe, David Drabousky, Mike Jurek, and David Zitt. Also fundamental to the team's success are student webmasters William Hawkins III and Martine Lamy and student game designer Brian Huneke. The team, led by its dedicated faculty advisor, Jeff Rodriguez, traveled to Washington, D.C. to receive its award on June 26, 2000.

The work of Anderson High School's NEED Project Team includes: evaluation of energy conservation improvements at its school; research of scientific applications for solar energy; and the presentation of energy education workshops and carnivals at local elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges and universities.

The team also developed and implemented an outstanding website (www.LearnAboutEnergy.org) to raise energy awareness to thousands of students, educators, and others around the world in classrooms ranging from Australia to Switzerland. The material on its website focuses on objective energy related education for students in middle school. It features games that teach the fundamentals of energy, including "Energy

Jeopardy" and "What's My Name?"; an energy fact of the day; energy discussion boards; greeting cards about energy; and Internet broadcasts.

The website also provides valuable tools for teachers. It offers links to online energy facts and information on how to conserve energy at home; an online textbook; energy lesson plans; quizzes to test students' knowledge of different types of energy; PowerPoint presentations about energy; and contact information for additional teaching resources.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of Anderson High School's NEED Project Team. All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate these students and their advisor on receiving the Senior Level School of the Year award.

IN SUPPORT OF PASSAGE OF
MEDICARE COVERAGE OF VISION
REHABILITATION SERVICES (H.R.
2870)

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of passage of my bill, H.R. 2870, the Medicare Vision Rehabilitation Coverage Act. As Congress considers its health care initiatives, I would like to highlight a proposal that would help over 6 million seniors in the United States receive services necessary for maintaining their independence. The Medicare Vision Rehabilitation Coverage Act would provide access to vision rehabilitation services for Medicare beneficiaries who report some level of vision impairment and would end up saving Medicare funds.

H.R. 2870 would extend Medicare coverage to orientation and mobility specialists, rehabilitation teachers and low vision therapists. These professionals provide critical specialized rehabilitation services to help people with a vision impairment to be able to adjust the loss of sight and carry out normal daily activities. These services can restore a person's independence, improve their quality of life and save unnecessary suffering and expense by preventing injuries.

Vision loss has a powerful impact on one's daily life. It affects an individual's ability to communicate through reading and writing, manage simple household tasks, move around safely and handle medication. In addition, vision that cannot be corrected by medical or surgical intervention or corrective lenses, is a major contributing factor to falls among older adults which can cause hip fractures and other injuries.

The Framingham Eye Study reports that 18 percent of all hip fractures in the elderly are a result of vision impairment. This year alone, it is estimated that 63,000 hip fractures will occur due to vision loss. The cost incurred for the medical treatment of a hip fracture is \$35,000. Therefore, the total estimated cost of medical treatment for hip fractures this year alone is \$2.2 billion. Conservative estimates illustrate that 20% of these hip fractures could have been prevented if elderly persons suffering from vision impairment had access to vision rehabilitation services. This would save